

SURVEY OF CURRENT EVENTS

THE WAR.

General Haig's British troops are still driving back the German Hindenburg line in Belgium. The advance is not rapid but it is steady and consistent. The fighting has been very fierce, but the advantages have been with the British. In advancing their lines they have captured German trenches, guns and prisoners.

There has not been much activity along the French line during the past week.

One of the most notable events of the week was the abdication of Constantine, king of Greece. After putting up with his vacillation and pro-German leaning for a long time, the Allies finally demanded that he should abdicate the throne, and forbade him to appoint his oldest son as his successor. He appointed his second son, who is twenty-four years old. The king, and queen who is a sister of the emperor of Germany, and their oldest son have gone to Switzerland. Now Greece can be counted on the side of the Allies, and they will be able to use the forces long held at Saloniki for

advance work against the Austrians.

The Italians are making some progress in driving back the Germans and Austrians.

Conditions are improving somewhat in Russia. The turmoil among the people is quieting down, and it is said that the army is getting ready to fight again.

GENERAL PERSHING IN PARIS.

Paris opened its arms to General Pershing and his staff this afternoon and welcomed them with an outburst of spontaneous enthusiasm such as only Paris is capable of. No conquering hero returning home could have hoped for, or received such a tremendous reception as greeted the American commander as his automobile sped through hundreds of thousands of cheering people.

Paris, and particularly the French authorities, had planned and hoped for a great reception, but it is doubtful whether even the most optimistic pictured the almost frantic crowds that all but blocked the progress of the automobiles. Men and women cheered themselves hoarse and flung masses of flowers into the cars. Parisians declared that the only event in their lifetime that approximates the reception enthusiasm was that accorded to King George of England in 1914.

When the special train reached the station General Pershing and Field Marshal Joffre were the first to appear. Behind them came a stream of American officers, each with a French officer as his host. The first shout of welcome became a continuous roar that seemed to shake the station to its foundations. The police hurriedly began to clear a lane down which a half dozen automobiles moved at a snail's pace between frantic throngs.

From hundreds of windows American flags were waved by men, women and children. French girls, with flags pinned to their breasts and their arms filled with flowers, fought for a chance to get near enough to the machines to hurl their offerings into the laps and on the shoulders of the astonished American officers.

The Americans apparently had not imagined the heights to which Parisian enthusiasm could rise. Boys, men and girls and even some old women, struggled to jump on the running board of General Pershing's car to shake hands with him.

It was not General Pershing alone who came in for unprecedented ovations, but every American caught sight of by the people was almost burdened with flowers. Crowds shouted themselves hoarse with cheers for America. From every housetop all along the route, from every window, from every elevation and from the thousands upon thousands who choked every thoroughfare in the vicinity of the line of march there was hurled a welcome that no American in Paris ever will forget.

PRESIDENT WILSON ON THE CAUSES OF THE WAR.

On Flag Day in Washington last week President Wilson made a notable address, from which we take the following extracts:

"It is plain enough how we were forced into the war. The extraordinary insults and aggressions of the Imperial German government left us no self-respecting choice, but to take up arms in defense of our rights as a free people and of our honor as a sovereign government. The military

masters of Germany denied us the right to be neutral. They filled our unsuspecting communities with vicious spies and conspirators and sought to corrupt the opinion of our people in their own behalf. When they found that they could not do that, their agents diligently spread sedition among us and sought to draw our own citizens from their allegiance—and some of those agents were men connected with the official embassy of the German government itself—here in our own capital. They sought by violence to destroy our industries and arrest our commerce. They tried to incite Mexico to take up arms against us and to draw Japan into a hostile alliance with her—and that, not by indirection, but by direct suggestion from the foreign office in Berlin. They impudently denied us the use of the high seas and repeatedly executed their threat that they would send to their death any of our people who ventured to approach the coasts of Europe * * * What great nation in such circumstances would not have taken up arms? Much as we had desired peace, it was denied us, and not of our own choice. This flag under which we serve would have been dishonored had we withheld our hand.

"But that is only part of the story. We know now as clearly as we knew before we were ourselves engaged that we are not the enemies of the German people and that they are not our enemies. * * * They are themselves in the grip of the same sinister power that has now at last stretched its ugly

talons out and drawn blood from us. The whole world is at war because the whole world is in the grip of that power, and is trying out the great battle which shall determine whether it is to be brought under its mastery or fling itself free.

"The war was begun by the military masters of Germany, who proved to be also the masters of Austria-Hungary. These men have never regarded nations as peoples, men, women and children, of like blood and frame as themselves, for whom governments existed and in whom governments had their life. They have regarded them merely as service-

(Continued on page 16.)

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